some cases of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops in the Poonch Sector in Jammu and Kashmir, during the last two months.

(b) Government have no report about any loss of life of property due to these firing incidents.

(c) Flag meetings at the local comman. der's level are held as also contacts at higher levels made to defuse the situation. as and when the and arises.

Demand foi a separate State of Jharkhand

*348. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA'

Wiil the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand is being made for a separate State of Jharkhad by taking out some districts of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH); (a) The Government of India are aware of this demand.

(b) Such demands arise on account of economic imbalances. The Government is of the view that such imbalances in a particular State or region should be tackled throught the mechanism of planning and the creation of a separate State may not be the answer to the problem.

Pursuing of an Indian Frigate by South African Aircrafts

*349. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently two South African srike aircrafs closely pursued 'an Indian frigate of the Godavari class which was bound for Mozambique from Cuba;

(b) if so. what are the details of the in cident and Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with the South African Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir, However, one South African reconnaissance aircraft flew in the vicinity of the Ship on 12th September, 1986 when sh_e was in international waters.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Separate State for Kumaon-Garhwal region

*350. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: SHRI CHITTA BASU: Wil] the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for the formation of a separate State com prising the eight hill districts in Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of the Centre; and

(b) if not, what is the alternative mea sures available with Government to im prove the economic condition of the peo ple in that area?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government is of the view that intra-state imbalances in economic development should be tackled through the mechanism of planning and with emphasis oa development of hilly regions.

जाली पारपत्र जारी करने वाला गिरोह

*351. **श्री रामजीभाई पातलीयाभाई राठवा :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली पुलिस की अपराध शाखा ने दस व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार कर एक ऐसे गिरोह का पर्दाफाश किया है जो जाली पारपत्रों पर विख्यात आतंकवादियों और अन्य व्यक्तियों को विदेशों में भेजने के काम में लिप्त था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्योरा क्या है और इस संबंध में कौन-कौन सी चीजें बरामद की गई हैं ;